

REVISED DRAFT

Ground Rules Nutrient Work Group May 14, 2009

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Nutrient Working Group (NWG) is to develop recommendations to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the base numeric nutrient standards, the development of temporary nutrient criteria, and the implementation of those standards and criteria together with associated economic impacts.

2. Time Line

The NWG will function through May 2010, but may be extended.

3. Members

Members and alternate members of the NWG will be designated by DEQ.

4. Decision Rule

- 4.1. The NWG will formulate recommendations by consensus, i.e., all members of the group must be able to live with the recommendations.
- 4.2 If a member cannot live with a proposed recommendation, she or he has a responsibility to explain why and offer an acceptable alternative.
- 4.3 DEQ will draft a report documenting the NWG recommendations, including majority and minority views, if any.
- 4.4 Prior to final action on any recommendation, a draft version will be available for vetting by the organizations or agencies represented by group members.

5. NWG Process

- 5.1 NWG meetings are open to the public and will be publicly announced.
- 5.2 The facilitator shall draft an agenda and circulate it to the NWG via e-mail or no less than 5 days prior to the meeting.
- 5.3 The facilitator shall draft and circulate to the NWG a summary of group meetings.
- 5.4 The facilitator shall conduct meetings so that all members have an opportunity to speak to all agenda topics.
- 5.5 Each meeting agenda will include a period at the end of the meeting to receive public comment.
- 5.6 The facilitator will provide reasonable opportunity for members of the public (i.e., non-NWG members or non-NWG alternates) to make presentations at an NWG meeting, if the facilitator receives a request to do so prior to circulation of the meeting agenda.
- 5.7 Except during the designated public comment period, the facilitator may limit questions, comments, and discussion during an NWG meeting to members of the NWG or their alternates.
- 5.8 NWG may create committees to consider specific designated topic; committees will report on their deliberations to the NWG.

6. Committee Member Responsibilities

- 6.1 Each member agrees to either attend all meetings or to be represented by an alternate.
- 6.2 Each member agrees to consult regularly with the organizations or agencies he or she

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represents about the group's deliberations and bring back to the group the organization's or agency's concerns, ideas, and other feedback.

- 6.3 Each member agrees to listen carefully and respectfully to other members and to avoid interrupting other members.
- 6.4 Each member agrees to respect the decision of any member to withdraw at any time for any reason.
- 6.5. Each member agrees to explain to the other members the reason for withdrawal from the process.

7.0 News Media Contacts

- 7.1 Each member may speak to the media regarding his or her own views, but no member may speak on behalf of or characterize the views of other members to the media or in other forums.
- 7.2. Only the DEQ may speak to the media or prepare press releases on behalf of the NWG.